THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH L. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Acts 12.
Devotional Reading: Joshua 1:5-9.

God, Our Help

Lesson for December 27, 1959

AT SUNSET, not a ray of hope. Alone, behind high walls, guarded by four squads of soldiers under special orders, his friends not knowing whether he was alive or dead. But by midnight—! the man was free, talking with his friends. (Naturally, hunted by the police . . . but they never found him.) What was the explanation of it? Nobody has ever quite succeeded in explaining it. The man himself said an angel did it; but an angel is hard to explain, too. The real explanation, every one felt, was in one single word: GOD. The man's friends had been praying to God, and God sent the angel. God had much more for Simon Peter to do.

Dr. Foreman

In Great Crisis

Did God help people in "Bible times" only and not since then? By no means. God himself cannot be seen, remember; so it is always possible for some one to doubt—to say, "Well, I didn't see God there." Nevertheless all through history there have been special occasions, crises as they may be called, when believers have been quite sure that God must have been specially interested and active.

For instance, in World War II, on D-Day, innumerable slips occurred during that great invasion of the Normandy coast. One writer who was there said that everything that could go wrong went wrong, and some things that couldn't. But in spite of it all, the Allies got their foothold in the enemys land. What accounts for that? Or take the German guided missiles. If they had been just a few weeks farther ahead with production, England might have been completely smashed and the war would have had a different ending.

What had the Germans up? Hitler, of course; but what made Hitler (ordinarily a shrewd man) so stupid?

"Out of Weakness"

For some people it may be easier to believe that God takes care of nations and of great events, than that God takes care of me. Let us not deny his presence in the great crises. Last June a streamliner with 180 passengers on board ran over a suitcase filled with enough dynamite to blow the train in two—and the fuse was lighted! But the fuse went out, and the train was not hurt. When the passengers learned about it, isn't it likely that most of they said, "Thank God!"

Some of them said it (perhaps) who hadn't thanked God for anything in years. Yet God can be in simple ordinary lives, giving help to the weak and the unimportant, just as truly as he helps a Saint Peter or the British Empire. An immigrant woman abandoned by her GI husband, with three hungry children on her hands, said once: "Sometimes I go to bed and I don't think I can get up again. But God, he wakes me up with a song in my throat and I begin again." Sometimes the only way we discover God is to reach a point of weakness where we know that without him we are done for.

Workers Together

We said that God had more for Simon Peter to do. This midnight miracle was the last of its kind in Peter's life so far as we know. He lived for years after this, a hard working missionary, no doubt often in danger, but kept and strengthened by what we absurdly call the "ordinary" Providence of God. Then came a day when Roman guards came for him once more, and this time there was no angel to help him. So he was crucified. Had God forsaken him at last? No; his work was done. If you are, as he was, a "worker together with God" you may be sure that until your work is done you are immortal.

We are at the gate of a New Year. What will it bring? Great dangers, great distress, great responsibilities? Whatever it may be, God knows what he is doing. We may see no angels, but with the eye of faith we can see the good hand of God guiding us, protecting us, giving us the help we need, when we need it.

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Last minute gift suggestion: a subscription to the home county newspaper. Only $2.00.

HIGH PRODUCTION PAYS IN DAIRYING

Top level production pays off in the dairy herd

This fact is clearly illustrated, says W. S. Griffith, dairy specialist at VPI, in a recent analysis of last year's dairy herd improvement association records.

The average Virginia DHIA cow in 1959 produced 9,657 pounds of milk and 381 pounds of butterfat. This milk brought a gross income of $338. The feed bill for the average cow was $235 for the year. So the average Virginia DHIA cow returned $103 over feed cost. The money was used to pay for labor, housing, machinery, depreciation, interest, taxes, and other miscellaneous fees. The remainder was the return to management.

Th six lowest producing DHIA herds had an average production per cow of 5,294 pounds of milk and 228 pounds of butterfat. This is about the average production for all dairy cows in Virginia. While these cows ate only $174 worth of feed, they produced only $309 worth of milk, showing an income over feed cost per cow of only $136.

As production per cow increased, feed cost increased slightly and return over feed cost increased greatly.

Five herds had an average production per cow of 14,820 lbs. of milk and 528 lbs. of butterfat. The cows in these herds ate $310 worth of feed, or $136 more feed per cow than those in the lowest producing group. But they showed a gross income of $791 per cow, $482 more than for the lowest producing cows.

After the feed bills were paid the high producing herds showed an income of $481 in comparison to $136 for the low producing herds.

Griffith points out that housing, labor, breeding, and testing costs are the same for low producers as for high producers. The dairyman with low production per cow does not have the necessary gross income. He may stay in business only by receiving no income for his management and a scant hourly wage for his labor. Low producing herds must become high producing herds or they will become part of the statistics on folks leaving the dairy business, Griffith says.

The specialist points out that the VPI Agricultural Extension Service has special programs for dairymen who want to do a better job. These include the dairy herd improvement association program, the owner-sampler program, and the weigh-a-day-a-month program. Each program gives information which a dairyman can use to improve his herd. County agricultural agents can give detailed information.

4-H TRACTOR SCHOOLS PLANNED FOR JANUARY

A series of tractor schools for adult 4-H leaders and older 4-H members has been planned for January.

State 4-H officials at VPI say those attending will be brought up to date on how the 4-H tractor program works, who is eligible, the subject matter covered, and other information. The schools will be held: January 14 in Rustburg; January 21, Abingdon; January 26, Wakefield; February 3, Culpeper, and February 5, Tappahannock.

The 4-H tractor program was organized in 1944, and is now conducted in every state, with a total membership last year of over 75,000 .In the program, 4-H members learn tractor and farm machinery care, operation, adjustment, and safety. A climax to the program each year is a state tractor operator's contest held at the state 4-H short course at VPI, and a regional contest held at the state fair in Richmond.

HER OWN WORLD

(Note: The following is one of a series of papers submitted to us by Professor Daneel le Roux).

By Mary Watkins Booth

English 9, Sec. A, Theme III.

She wakes up most every morning to find the bright, brisk sunlight shining through her window. Then she arises and prepares for the day ahead, not knowing what light or dismay it will bring.

Each day begins with the glance of eager, bright faces. She understands and wants to help for she, like most everyone, was once a student herself.

She goes through the day with a smile on her face, sharing troubles and happiness with everyone she meets.

At the end of the day she bids farewell to the timid little [illegible] and prepares for tomorrow.

For like everyone else she has her own world.

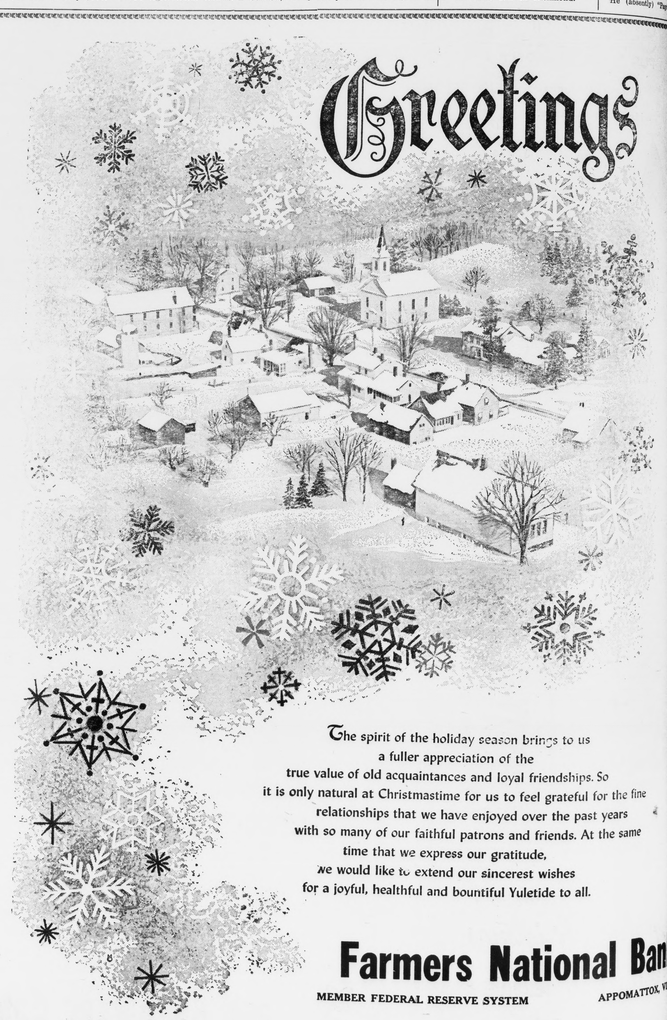
IT AIN'T THE GIFT

It ain't the gift a fellow gives,
It ain't the things he brings
That sets the heart a-throbbin'
An' puts sunshine in the day.
It ain't the value of the gift
Ner how it's wrapped
It's something else entirely
That makes yer glad
It's knowin' that someone
A love both deep and true
That someone cares enough
And wants to slip to you
It's knowin' that someone
An' tell you in his way
'Jes' sorter actin' out
The things they really
So Oin's the gift a fellow gives
Ner how it's wrapped
It's knowin' that yer fellow
That makes you glad

They Run High

She: "What's lacking in a diamond?"

He (absently) "Spots."



The spirit of the holiday season brings to us
a fuller appreciation of the
true value of old acquaintances and loyal friendships. So
it is only natural at Christmastime for us to feel grateful for the fine
relationships that we have enjoyed over the past years
with so many of our faithful patrons and friends. At the same
time that we express our gratitude,
we would like to extend our sincerest wishes
for a joyful, healthful and bountiful Yuletide to all.

Farmers National Bank

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

Home is where the heart is at holiday time, and
we hope both your home and your heart
are filled with joy as you gather
with your dear ones to celebrate in the true
spirit of love and good fellowship.

BEAMS & Co

Complete Home Furnishings

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

Church bells ring . . . choirs of jubilant voices proclaim the glory of the Day. We too speak out to wish our friends all good things. May this Christmas season bring much happiness and great joy of spirit to you and those dear to you.

PLANTERS WAREHOUSE

Joel Watkins, Jr., Proprietor

W. Third Street Farmville, Virginia

SPOUT SPRING HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB

The Spout Spring Home Demonstration Club met at Spout Spring school lunch room for its December meeting.

Mrs. B. G. Anderson brought the new Year Books. We look forward each year to receiving them. We are grateful to The Bank of Appomattox for making them available.

Our devotion was a sandlelighting service. Mrs. Edith McCormick told us in a most impressive way our Christmas Story, by Mrs. Mrs. Billy Graham. Mrs. Wesley Martin brought out some customs in observing Christmas in other lands.

Pollyanna gifts were exchanged, after which refreshments were served. The January meeting will be held with Mrs. Howlette Martin.

Cold Resistant Plastics Now Possible, USDA Says

The discovery of new plasticizers which, when used in making plastic articles, will permit them to bend without breaking, at temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero, has been announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists.

The new plasticizers, derived from animal fats, are said to have potential uses for improved plastics for such things as wire coatings, automobile seat covers, galoshes, and other protective clothing that may be exposed to a wide range of temperatures.

PLAY SAFE WHEN MOVING LIVESTOCK

Farmers have to take their livestock to market — no matter what the season.

VPI scientists say if you're transporting your stock now and are using a canvas to protect them from heavy winter winds, be sure to keep the canvas secure. Watch out for ice on the chute. An animal can slip and hurt both himself and you. Double-check the gates to be sure they are secure. It's costly to learn by accident.

RATS REDUCE PROFITS

Cold weather is the signal for the annual migration of rats into buildings.

VPI specialists say poultry houses seem to be a preferred shelter for rats. While a rat-control program must be conducted throughout the year, fall and early winter call for concentrated effort. Get rid of weeds and trash outside of buildings, and be careful about spilled feed. Repair floors and foundations and place wire or metal shields around crib storages. On the average farm, a continuing program of baiting with poisons will prove effective.

Respect for foreign capital in India cited.

East German role at Summit opposed.

Bonn and Paris battle to equip allies' air force.

LETTERS TO SANTA

Appomattox, Va.

Dear Santa Claus,

I am 5 years old, and have been a pretty good boy. Sometimes I'm hard-headed, but I'm trying to stop this.

Please bring me a scooter, a cowboy rifle, and some gifts wrapped up.

Thankyou,

Phillip Lucado,
Route No. 3, Box 161.

Dear Santa,

I want you to bring me a Rifleman gun, typewriter, wagon and a bow and arrow set. I am in the first grade and I have been very good. Don't forget to fill my stocking. I will leave you some cake and coffee.

David Neal Moon,
Rt. 1, Appomattox, Va.

Dear Santa,

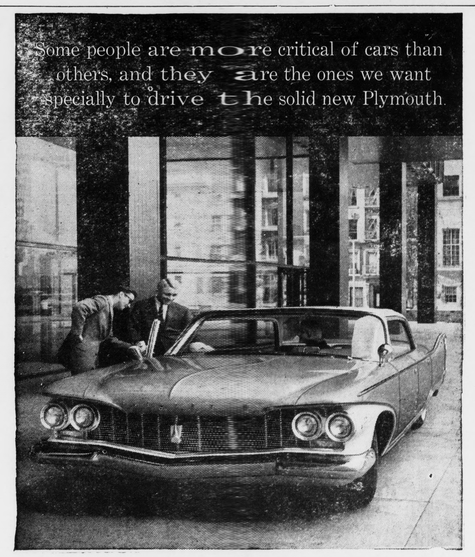
I have been a very good little boy and I would like you to bring me a Lone Ranger gun and holster set, Lone Ranger hat and mask. I would like some trucks and cars also.

Ronnie Gene Moon,
Rt. 1, Appomattox, Virginia.

Britain schedules repairs for 10 Downing Street.

U. N. committee backs aid to Arab refugees.

Twelve nations sign treaty on Antarctic.



This car is built a new solid way by Chrysler Corporation engineers. It simply doesn't have many parts that work loose and need fixing in some cars. We'd like to answer some questions about this car now:

Q. *What is this new way of building?*

A. Chrysler Corporation's virtually trouble-free version of unit construction. Body and undersills are joined in a single unit of enormous strength, locked by close to 5400 welds. In Dura-Quiet Unibody, there is no frame and no conventional body bolts, struts, braces, etc., to loosen and rattle.

Q. *What about power and performance?*

A. There's the new 30-D Economy Six, a new "inclined" six that delivers outstanding economy in normal driving. The standard V-8 is the Fury V-800 which three times in a row topped its class in the Mobilgas Economy Run. Or you may choose the extra-cost SonoRamic Commando V-8.

If you ask us, this is the best built, best performing low-price car of all. Give it a real try soon, won't you?

A Chrysler-engineered product, built a new solid way to give you solid satisfaction.

SOLID PLYMOUTH 1960

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